

More Deer on Highways During Fall, Winter Months

Motorists encouraged to be alert



Over the last three years, animal-related crashes claimed 11 lives and caused nearly \$145 million in damage.

As the temperature starts dropping and leaves start falling, another sign of the changing season is more deer along North Carolina roadways. For motorists, that means a greater chance of striking a deer on the road.

Between 2012 and 2014, nearly half of the 58,372 animal-related crashes in the state took place from October through December. About 90 percent of those involved deer.

A new [N.C. Department of Transportation study](#) shows there were 17,831 animal-related crashes in 2014 - the lowest number since 2006. But over the past three years, animal-related crashes claimed 11 lives, injured 3,386 drivers and passengers and caused nearly \$145 million in damage.

The top five counties with animal-related crashes reported last year in North Carolina include:

Stay Connected



NC Transportation Now

On this week's NC Transportation Now, the department awards a contract for construction of a new temporary bridge on Pea Island, a new connector road has opened in Mooresville to provide better access to industrial areas, and tickets are now available for the Santa Train. For more information on these stories, visit NCDOT's [YouTube Channel](#).



NCDOT Sec. Nick Tennyson and Mrs. Mary Frances Forrester

- Wake: 794
- Pitt: 562
- Guilford: 550
- Duplin: 445
- Randolph: 444

To learn safety tips for avoiding animal-vehicle collisions and to see how many of those collisions happened where you live, click [here](#).



Connector Road in Mooresville Opens to Traffic

Connector Road in Mooresville is now open to traffic, creating a crucial link between Mazeppa and Cornelius roads that is designed to improve mobility and connectivity in the area.

The new two-lane road stretches between U.S. 21 and N.C. 115 and will provide a more direct route to the interstate. Building the roughly 1-mile Connector Road was a collaboration between the N.C. Department of Transportation and the Town of Mooresville. The Department contributed \$750,000 toward the roughly \$2 million project. The remainder was funded through a 2014 GO Bond.

"This partnership is a prime example of what we are trying to accomplish throughout North Carolina, with everyone working together to bring about transportation improvements that will meet significant needs and strengthen our state," said Transportation Secretary Nick Tennyson.

Tennyson, along with other local and state leaders, marked the opening of Connector Road with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 30. The road officially

Portion of N.C. 27 in Gaston County named for longtime physician, public servant

A five-mile portion of N.C. 27 through the Town of Stanley in Gaston County was recently named in honor of the late Senator James S. Forrester, MD.

Forrester served eight terms as a member of the N.C. Senate. He also retired as a Brigadier General from the United States Air Force and the North Carolina Air National Guard and served as a practicing physician in the Town of Stanley for more than 42 years.

The NCDOT, together with other local and state officials, as well as members of the Forrester family, celebrated the honor with a ceremony and sign unveiling.

"The North Carolina Board of Transportation dedicates portions of highways throughout North Carolina in honor of exceptional individuals, and I can think of no one more deserving of such a recognition," said NCDOT Secretary Nick Tennyson, who spoke at the ceremony.

Additional photos can be found on the NCDOT's [Flickr page](#).



Connector Road

opened to traffic around 3:30 p.m. that day, after a ceremonial "first drive."

"This is a great day for Mooresville as this new road will be a vital asset to our industrial park, and it will serve all in the community as it connects two of our most traveled highways," said Mooresville Mayor Miles Atkins.

Other speakers at the event included Sen. David Curtis and Mooresville EDC Executive Director Robert Carney.

Photos from the ribbon-cutting ceremony are available on NCDOT's [Flickr page](#).



NCDOT News

For more NCDOT news and updates, visit NCDOT's online newsroom [here](#).

Board of Transportation Approves Additional Funds to Improve Existing Highways, Bridges

The recently passed state budget will allow NCDOT to make a greater investment in North Carolina's existing highways and bridges.

The General Assembly appropriated nearly \$500 million in additional funding in the two-year budget (for fiscal years 2016 and 2017) for maintenance and preservation work. NCDOT distributes these funds yearly to the divisions based on need.

The Board of Transportation approved each division's initial funding amount for Fiscal Year 2016 at its August meeting, and approved the additional funding at its October meeting.



Division 12 Board Member
Lou Wetmore

"As the region grows, it's important to continue investing in our existing infrastructure so that our bridges and highway can sustain the increased demand," said Division 12 Board Member Lou Wetmore. "This funding will allow us to address more preservation and resurfacing projects throughout Division 12."

Here's what that means for Division 12 for Fiscal Year 2016, which runs July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2016:

- An additional \$3,548,618 was allocated to improve deficient bridges. This brings the division's total Bridge Program funding to \$11,428,864;
- An additional \$2,660,397 was allocated for pavement preservation, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$7,595,703;
- An additional \$3,456,470 was allocated for contract resurfacing, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$33,265,766; and
- An additional \$2,953,892 was allocated for secondary road and bridge maintenance, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$21,069,175.

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